

Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the specification of the application as follows.

On page 31, please amend paragraph 91 as follows:

[0091] Drive train 1242 couples ring gear 1260 to output shaft 1234 and to distribution system ~~1256~~ 1252. In the particular embodiment illustrated, drive train 1242 includes intermeshing gears 1270, 1271 and 1272. In lieu of comprising intermeshing gears, drive train 1242 may comprise other torque transmitting trains such as belt and pulley arrangements or chain and sprocket arrangements.

On page 31, please amend paragraph 92 as follows:

[0092] Prime mover 1250 generally comprises an electric motor/generator configured to provide rotational mechanical energy as an output via output shaft 1276 to distribution system ~~1256~~ 1252. Similarly, prime mover 1251 comprises an electric motor/generator configured to provide rotational mechanical energy as an output via output shaft 1277. In alternative embodiments, one or both of prime movers 1250, 1251 may alternatively comprise electric motors which do not also function as a generator.

On pages 31 and 32, please amend paragraph 93 as follows:

[0093] Distribution system 1252 distributes torque or force from one or both of prime movers 1250 and 1251 to output shafts 132, 134 while reducing the speed (increasing the torque) of the force being transmitted to one or both of shafts 1232, 1234. Distribution system 1252 generally includes planetary gear assembly 1278, planetary gear assembly 1279, planetary gear assembly 1280, drive train 1281, clutch 1282, drive train 1283, drive train 1284 and clutch 1285. Planetary gear assembly 1278 includes sun gear 1286, ring gear 1288, planetary gears 1290 and carrier 1292. Sun gear 1286 is affixed to prime mover output shaft 1276. Ring gear 1288 is affixed to drive shaft 1293 and is in meshing engagement with planetary gears 1290. Planetary gears 1290 are rotatably supported by carrier 1292 and are in meshing engagement with sun gear 1286 and ring gear 1288. Carrier 1292 is affixed to gear 1271 of drive train 1242.

On page 32, please amend paragraph 96 as follows:

[0096] Drive train 1281 is coupled between carrier 1392 and output shaft 1234 so as to transmit rotational mechanical energy therebetween. In the particular embodiment illustrated, drive train 1281 includes gears ~~1320~~ 1321, 1322 and 1324. Gear ~~1320~~ 1321 is affixed to carrier 1312. Gear 1322 is configured to be selectively coupled to output shaft 1234 by clutch 1282. Gear 1324 is in intermeshing engagement with gears ~~1320~~ 1321 and 1322. Although gear 1322 is illustrated as being configured to be selectively coupled to output shaft 1234 by clutch 1282, other arrangements may be employed to selectively couple carrier 1312 to output shaft 1234. For example, clutch 1282 may alternatively be configured to selectively couple gear ~~1320~~ 1321 to carrier 1312. Although drive train 1281 is illustrated as comprising three gears, drive train 1281 may alternatively comprise greater or fewer gears or may employ other drive train mechanisms such as belt and pulley arrangements or chain and sprocket arrangements.

On page 34, please amend paragraph 101 as follows:

[0101] In the low-speed mode, prime mover 1250 generates rotational mechanical energy which is transmitted through planetary gear assembly 1278 to drive shaft 1293 and through planetary gear assembly 1280 and drive train 1281 to output shaft 1234. Rotational mechanical energy from prime mover 1250 is further transmitted through planetary gear assembly 1278 and through drive train 1242 to output shaft 1234. Rotational mechanical energy from prime mover 1250 is further transmitted to output shaft 1232 through planetary gear assembly 1278, through drive shaft 1293 and through drive train 1283 coupled between output shaft 1232 and ring gear 1308 of planetary gear assembly 1280.